<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>:

**The following listing of claims replaces all previous claim listings:**

**Claim 1 (currently amended):** A system for inserting additional information in DCT (discrete cosine transform) coefficients by referring to a variable-length code table, wherein the DCT coefficients are generated in blocks from image data, the system comprising:

an information inserting section for inserting additional information into input DCT coefficients in a block by changing at least one DCT coefficient of the input DCT coefficients to produce changed DCT coefficients; and

a total code length restoring section for correcting a level of <u>a</u> ~~one~~ DCT coefficient selected from the changed DCT coefficients in the block, <u>excluding the at least one changed DCT coefficient,</u> to produce corrected DCT coefficients by referring to the variable-length code table, ~~wherein~~ the ~~one~~ DCT coefficient <u>being</u> ~~is~~ selected so that a total code length of codes generated from the corrected DCT coefficients is equal to an original total code length of codes generated from the input DCT coefficients in the block.

**Claims 2-6  (Cancel)**

**Claim 7 (currently amended):** A method for inserting additional information in DCT (discrete cosine transform) coefficients by referring to a variable-

length code table, wherein the DCT coefficients are generated in blocks from image data, the method comprising the steps of:

a) inserting additional information into input DCT coefficients in a block by changing at least one DCT coefficient of the input DCT coefficients to produce changed DCT coefficients; and

b) correcting a level of a ~~one~~ DCT coefficient selected from the changed DCT coefficients in the block, excluding the at least one changed DCT coefficient, to produce corrected DCT coefficients by referring to the variable-length code table, ~~wherein~~ the ~~one~~ DCT coefficient being ~~is~~ selected so that a total code length of codes generated from the corrected DCT coefficients is equal to an original total code length of codes generated from the input DCT coefficients in the block.


**Claims 8-12 (Cancel)**


**Claim 13 (currently amended):** A recording medium storing a computer-readable program for inserting additional information in DCT (discrete cosine transform) coefficients by referring to a variable-length code table, wherein the DCT coefficients are generated in blocks from image data, the program comprising the steps of:

a) inserting additional information into input DCT coefficients in a block by changing at least one DCT coefficient of the input DCT coefficients to produce changed DCT coefficients; and

b) correcting a level of a ~~one~~ DCT coefficient selected from the changed

DCT coefficients in the block, <u>excluding the at least one changed DCT coefficient,</u> to produce corrected DCT coefficients by referring to the variable-length code table, ~~wherein~~ the ~~one~~ DCT coefficient <u>being</u> ~~is~~ selected so that a total code length of codes generated from the corrected DCT coefficients is equal to an original total code length of codes generated from the input DCT coefficients in the block.